



Sam Brownback

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BROWNBACK SUPPORTS AMENDMENT CALLING FOR PERMANENT AGRICULTURAL AMBASSADOR

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today spoke on the Senate floor in favor of the Ashcroft amendment to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R.434). This amendment designates a permanent Agricultural Ambassador who will serve as chief agricultural negotiator in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

“I rise in strong support of the amendment to make the position of ag trade ambassador permanent within the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative,” Brownback said.

“As Congress looks at ways to improve the current ag economy, it is critical that government fight for free trade and to open markets so that American producers have a level playing field. The upcoming round of WTO negotiations in Seattle presents us with a significant opportunity to move this important issue forward.

“It is vital that the agriculture industry have a strong and permanent voice in trade matters. As we negotiate trade deals, our friends and foes alike should know the priority we place on ag trade. This straightforward amendment makes that priority clear by making permanent a role which is already in place within USTR.

“I urge my colleagues to support this provision and maintain the important role that agriculture plays in trade policy,” Brownback said.

The Agricultural Ambassador’s duties would include conducting trade negotiations and enforcing trade agreements relating to U.S. agricultural products and services. Additionally, the person in this position would serve as a primary advocate of U.S. agricultural interests.

Brownback is a member of the WTO Farmers/Ranchers Trade Caucus.